Episode 19- Mike and Melissa and the Mysterious Case of the Summertime Lovin’

scene 1- int. mike's apt. living room, 5/16/2011, 7PM

It's another dumbass noir parody! The shades are down, everything's black and white, yada yada yada. I'm on the couch playing LA NOIRE (the soundtrack pervades the scene) with a beer that I periodically sip.

mike (v.o.)

They say summertime is for lovers. Well, I've seen my share of summertimes but I haven't seen many lovers. What the hell is love, anyways? I'm not sure if I even believe in it. Love is like an imaginary purple skunk cat person... thingy. I mean, yeah, I'm in love with an imaginary purple skunk cat person thingy, but... you know... uh... in society. Society sucks. This game is fun.

MELISSA poofs in.

melissa

Sheesh, Mike. If you're really going to do a(nother) freakin' noir parody, you could at least go all the way through with it.

MIKE

I think I was doing a pretty good job.

MIKE (V.O.)

She enters with a pink puff. You can feel her in the room, even when she's not there. While one eye soothes you with an icy blue, the other is a fire. A fire that often comes out in the BEDROOM-

MELISSA

Alright, you.

She turns on a switch labeled "color". The ambiance dies.

MIKE

It's true though.

MELISSA

I know.

Flirty kiss.

MELISSA

But I don't need some nondiegetic voiceover to tell me that.

MIKE

Actually, that would be diegetic-

MELISSA

Whatever. HEY have you heard anything about internships?

MIKE

Nope.

MELISSA

Bummer. How about jobs?

MIKE

No...

MELISSA

Bunk! Well... have you been following up on stuff?

MIKE

...No...

MELISSA

Have you been looking for MORE STUFF-

MIKE

Melissa, come on!

MELISSA

Hey, relax! I'm just seeing if you had any plans.

MIKE

Nope.

MELISSA

So what are you going to do?

MIKE

...Play LA Noire?

MELISSA

ALL summer?

MIKE

YES.

She makes me pauses the game. That's not a typo I just felt like spelling it that way.

MELISSA

Come on, dude. This is the time! This may be your last free summer... ever! You oughta take advantage of this thing. Take a hike through the woods every day. Get into shape. Work on your series stuffs. Catch up with your buds. OR, my personal favorite...

She pulls out a boombox and starts blasting "SUMMERTIME LOVIN'" and boogeying down to it. Yeah, the song from Regular Show.

MIKE

You've gotta be kidding me.

MELISSA

Heck yes! How's THAT for your cross-cultural reference? Take your cliche noir parody and shove it up your-

intro sequence!!!

MELISSA

ASS!!!

She starts up the song again. Montage time!

scene 2- ext. the laketub, 5/18/2011, noon

PHIL, LEE, ROY, MICHAEL, TRAVIS and I are all swimming along a spot on the river. I hoist up onto a rock in the middle of a river. I'm preparing to do a super impressive jump... but MELISSA comes up from behind and pushes me in!!!

scene 3- ext. BACKYARD WOODS, 5/18/2011, 3pm

MELISSA and I are walking all by ourselves hand in hand in the back woods behind my parents' house. MEL has a picnic basket slung over one of her arms. We get onto a walkway that crosses over some marshiness. When the time is right, I move to push her in... but she sees this coming from a mile away and steps back. So I fall in like the fool I am!

Later, I'm drying off and while MEL is setting up the picnic. I look all pissy, but she comes over and brings me a big steak. All's forgiven. We cuddle up against a tree. A tiny skunk passes our line of sight. Of course, we move to investigate!

scene 4- ext. lower huron metropark, 5/18/2011, 5pm

DAD and I are biking swiftly along through a metropark. MELISSA follows on a little scooter... which she somehow manages to attach to the back of my bike.

scene 5- ext. the u of m school of dentistry, 5/19/2011, midnight

LEE, MICHAEL and I are doing some parkour stuff. LEE and MICHAEL easily climb a wall. I attempt to do the same... but I lose my grip. MELISSA's there to give me a boost up. Then of course she easily does it too.

scene 6- ext. u of m tennis courts, 5/19/2011, 2am

JOE has joined up with LEE, MICHAEL and I as we play a rousing game of night hand tennis! JOE and I are on a team vs. MICHAEL and LEE. MELISSA is there, in tennis outfit, fighting off court monsters (the

equivalent of turf monsters on court). I score a point, and JOE and I celebrate! A shout is heard from one of the dorms nearby and we all scatter.

scene 7- int. 7/11, 5/19/2011, 3am

LEE, MICHAEL, JOE, and I walk into a 7/11. MEL comes in behind with her boombox blasting that freakin' song.

MIKE

Hold on one sec, guys.

I grab the boombox and smash it.

MELISSA

Not cool. If you wanted to turn it off, you could have just pressed the button.

MIKE

Well, you can just summon a new one anyways. So...

MELISSA

Hey, good point.

She does. And she blasts the song twice as loud. Boy I really walked right into that one, huh? Ah well. Anywho I go in and who's behind the counter but our old friend JOSH!

josh

Oh... it's you guys.

MIKE

Well, well, Josh Carlton! I didn't know you worked here.

JOSH

Yes... some of us need to provide for ourselves, MIKE.

MIKE

Ah, well... you can provide for me, too... as in a free slurpee...

josh

You want a free slurpee? I can get you one, no problem.

MIKE

Really? Well... sure.

JOSH

What size d'you want?

MIKE

Medium is fine-

JOSH

Fuck you! You're getting a small!

MIKE

Oh... fine.

JOSH

What flavor?

MIKE

Blue raspberry-

JOSH

Fuck you! You're getting Mountain Dew!

MIKE

What??? Come on, man! I'll be up all night.

JOSH

That's fine, you can stay up and hang out with me.

MIKE

Aw, Josh. You need someone to staff this place with you? I'm actually looking for a summer job. Give me an application and a recommendation and maybe I can help you out...

JOSH

Sorry, this place just hired a guy with 8+ years experience as a clerk. Besides...

He looks around, then ushers me closer.

JOSH

You do NOT want to work here. Trust me. Unless you absolutely need the money, DON'T.

MIKE

Well, alright, if you say so. I guess I'll just sit around on my butt all summer.

JOSH

I envy you.

LEE, JOE, and MICHAEL come up to the counter with some stuff to buy.

joe

I don't know, something something about sex...

michael

Sex? It happens...

lee

Well, I guarantee you I've had more sex than anyone in this room combined.

MIKE

Well... that's quite the line to hear out of context... Hey Josh, Lee says he's had more sex than all of us.

josh

I find it hard to believe that you've had more sex than me. Every day in high school was wake up, cut class, go to my girlfriend's house and have sex all day.

MIKE

Which is why you work at 7/11 now, right?

JOSH

But I think it's safe we've all had more sex than Mike.

MIKE and melissa

Not even!

We look at each other real quick... like I forgot she was there.

MIKE

Melissa and I-

JOSH

That doesn't count.

MIKE

Well even so, I'll have you know I was just dating someone and I had opportunities for sex. But I didn't take 'em. Want to know why?

JOSH

Because you're dumb?

MIKE

NO! Because for me it doesn't mean anything without emotional connection. I mean, if there's no love behind it I can just as easily do myself. I've gotten pretty good at it.

JOSH

You say that now, but there's going to be a day when you say that you wish you had more sex when you had the chance. Let love come when it comes (no pun intended). Take advantage of every opportunity you can while you can.

MIKE

Yeah, yeah... anyways, thanks for the slurpee.

I grab the slurpee off the counter and slug it down.

JOE

Ooh, a slurpee...

MICHAEL

That sounds surprisingly good about now...

MIKE

That's good! Josh is handing free ones out to EVERYONE!!!

LEE, MICHAEL, JOE, and the 1-2 other loiterers swarm the counter.

JOsh

Goddamn you, Mike...

scene 8- int. mike's apartment, 5/20/2011, 1pm

I'm on my butt playing LA NOIRE again. It's noir style again.

MIKE (V.O.)

Josh was always an interesting fellow. Fun for a story, but not the type of person you'd tell a story to because he might sell it to a Hollywood agent. If he had the connections. But he made me think... was he right? Am I denying my own deeper carnal urges by continuing to worship the dated idol known as "love"? Can people my age even understand the concept? Can anyone?

I look at a glass of milk on the table.

MIKE (V.O.)

I remembered I poured myself a glass of milk about 15 minutes ago. It reminds me of a happier time, a less confusing time. It wasn't even a year ago yet...

It gears up like it's going to go into flashback, but then it doesn't. Because MEL turned off the ambience again.

MELISSA

Nuh-uh. No way. We're not visiting any flashbacks without ME.

MIKE

Man, you sure know how to derail a train of thought.

MELISSA

What, that thing about sex versus love? Don't tell me you're actually buying into that crap Josh told you.

MIKE

I'm just thinking about it... besides, didn't you want me to, in your own words, "get some" with Jenny just a couple weeks ago?

MELISSA

I mean, when you were ready. But think how sucky it would have been if you did it and then it ended like it did.

MIKE

Well, it ended pretty sucky anyways.

MELISSA

Yeah...

She puts her hand on my back and cuddles up.

MELISSA

But hey, I think someone our... er, YOUR age can understand love. I mean, you love me, right?

MIKE

With all my beating heart.

MELISSA

And mine right back at ya.

Smooch.

MIKE

Wait... what do you mean MY age? How old are you supposed to-

MELISSA

Exhibit B.) Your sister and Brendan are happily married and they're only two years older than you.

MIKE

Maybe it runs in the family.

MELISSA

Maybe. Either way, what they got and what we got are enough to make me believe that the young 'uns can understand and demonstrate true romantic love. If, as is the case with us, it's demonstrated in an unusual way.

MIKE

You're right. You're very unusual.

MELISSA

I'm just me.

We smooch some more. Then the phone rings. It's my DAD. No, it's my cell phone, but my DAD's on the other line.

MIKE

No, I haven't found a summer job or an internship yet-

dad

No, actually, the reason I called is that something's come up and you might want to come over-

MIKE

Oh god, PLEASE don't tell me someone died-

DAD

No, it's nothing like that. But you probably want to hear it in person. Maybe while we're biking.

MIKE

Alright, I'll be over soon.

dad

And no, this isn't just an excuse to go out biking.

MIKE

You sure about that?

dad

Well...

scene 9- ext. hudson mills metropark, 5/19/2011, 2pm

DAD and I are unloading the bikes from our bike rack and gearing up and stuff.

MIKE

So what's up?

dad

Well, you know that Liz and Brendan got back from Florida a few days ago...

MIKE

Sure.

DAD

Well, I guess I'll just say it... this morning Liz called me and said that Brendan announced he was moving back in with his parents.

MIKE

Wait... what?

dad

Yeah... I was shocked too.

MIKE

Wow... what happened?

DAD

That's the million dollar question... come on. It'll take a while to explain so let's get started.

He starts to bike off. I follow, going noir mode.

MIKE (V.O.)

Just like that, my hollow conception of love was dealt another death blow. It was like a boxer in the 11th round on it's last legs and that may have been the final haymaker. But this story is like swiss cheese, and I'm a mouse ready to navigate some holes. I'm going to solve... the mystery of the empty glass of milk.

MELISSA follows, avec scooter.

MELISSA

Seriously. Is that what you're calling it?

MIKE

I suppose you have a better name?

MELISSA

The mysterious case of the summertime lovin'!

That boombox! That song! It never ends!!!

MIKE

I think I got it. Maybe he left her because she kept PLAYING THIS SONG!

MELISSA

Whatever. I know you like this song.

MIKE

I just have it stuck in my head.

MELISSA

But I'm a projection of part of your head. And I'm enjoying it. Ergo you're enjoying it... plus I heard you singing it in the shower.

She got me again! I give up and we sing along. COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

scene 10- int. mike's living room, 5/19/2011, 7pm

I'm sitting there in my recliner with all the shades drawn, contemplating. The guinea pig starts whining.

pig

WHEE WHEE WHEE

MIKE

PIG!!! I'm trying to brood here!

MELISSA enters and plops down on top of me.

MELISSA

Maybe instead of being a gloomy brooder you should take care of your pets?

MIKE

I could, but... that would require me getting up. And you're like on top of me.

MELISSA

Ah, good point. So why are you all bummed out? It's not your fault they're splitting up-

MIKE

Hey! Who said they were splitting up??? He just went back to his parents for a bit I've heard this is really common in the first year of marriage! So maybe you should get your facts straight, missy!

MELISSA

Alright, sheesh. I'm sorry.

She looks all hurt. I offer an apologetic face caress.

MIKE

It's... fine. Sorry, I... well, maybe this will explain.

I grab her and pull her (and myself) into my head.

scene 11- ext. mission point veranda, 7/10/2010, 2PM

What a scene it is! A picture perfect wedding. A sunny day on Mackinac Island, a 3-piece band, and plenty of people out to enjoy it. LIZ and BRENDAN are standing at the veranda. I'M there in the best man position. A PRIEST stands at the center, of course. MEL and I pop in, chilling on top of the veranda.

MELISSA

I like how we're able to go straight to memories now instead of going through the whole lobby-type thing.

MIKE

Yeah. Nifty, huh?

MELISSA

Still, I do miss taking rides down memory lane-

MIKE

Later. Watch.

priest

Now, would the best man please present the rings...

My past self reaches around in my pocket... but I have a bit of trouble getting them out. I finally manage to, then smile awkwardly to the crowd.

PRIEST

Thanks. Now, these rings symbolize your eternal bond of love, friendship, and unity. No matter where you may go, your rings will remind you how close you are to each other's hearts.

MELISSA

Aw...

Melissa snuggles up to me.

PRIEST

Now, before I pronounce you husband and wife, I'd like to perform the unity sands ceremony. If you'd come back here...

They do as he says. The band starts playing. LIZ pours her sand, then BRENDAN dumps all his in at once. The crowd laughs.

MELISSA

Oh, Brendan...

MIKE

Yeah... well, shall we move ahead?

MELISSA snaps her fingers. We go to...

scene 12- int. mission hill reception room, 7/10/2011, 6PM

We got the wedding reception thing all set up. PAST ME is at the table next to BRENDAN. I eye DAD talking to one of the waitresses. The DJ

comes up and hands me the microphone. I pop in with MELISSA. Oh yeah we're dressed appropriately now.

MELISSA

Ah, yes. Your finest hour.

MIKE

Well... so far...

PAST ME stands up. Throughout the speech, the audience laughs where appropriate.

past mike

Alright, so I just wrote this speech five minutes ago, so don't be too harsh.

MELISSA

False. You planned that for months-

Oh yeah NICOLE is there.

nicole

SHH!

MELISSA

Oh. Sorry...

past MIKE

Okay, so I first met Brendan when I was thirteen, way back when he first started dating Liz. I was weird then, and... well, kind of annoying. So I asked, no, DEMANDED that he go get me a glass of milk. Being the guy he is, he went and got it for me, even though Liz told him not to. At that moment, I knew he'd be a good husband for my sister. Know why? Because YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD!

Big laugh.

PAST MIKE

No, but seriously, I'm so happy for you guys. I mean, if any of you out there have questioned the existence of true love (I know I have), take a look because these guys got it. So that's pretty much it. But before I toast, I thought since you got me a glass of milk, I'd get you one back...

The WAITRESS brings in 3 champagne glasses full of milk, for ME, LIZ, and BRENDAN. I raise my glass.

PAST MIKE

To seven good years and many more to come!

Cheers! MELISSA pats me on the back.

MELISSA

THAT WAS SO AWESOME, MIKE!!! It's all so perfect... the location, the ceremony, the speech from the best man... all flawless!

She takes my hands.

MELISSA

Mike... can our wedding be like this?

NICOLE

Who says you're getting married?

MELISSA

Well... IF we do...

MIKE

Sure it can. As long as our marriage doesn't end like theirs does. Otherwise... well, it'll be kind of a waste, won't it?

MELISSA

Oh... now I see why you're taking all this so hard. You feel obligated as best man to preserve the marriage!

MIKE

Something like that.

MELISSA

Well, that's really sweet. But you know, even if things don't work out, and that's not a given, it isn't your fault. And it shouldn't take away from the positive memories of tonight and all the other good times you had.

MIKE

It will though...

She caresses my face. I hold her hand as she does.

MELISSA

Hmm... well, if you really feel like you have to do something, you can talk to them about it. I mean, ultimately it's still up to them, but it may help.

MIKE

I'll try.

MELISSA

Okay. I got your back.

Kiss.

MELISSA

But before we do that... DANCE PARTY!!!

The DJ blasts some beats!!! EVERYONE spills out onto the dance floor as they play "Stayin' Alive". PAST ME takes the center, doing my best (YOUNG) John Travolta impression. MELISSA tries to drag me into the center.

MELISSA

Come on!

MIKE

I don't dance.

She looks back at my past guy.

MELISSA

He seems to think otherwise.

MIKE

Oh... fine.

We boogey!

scene 13- ext. vet park, 5/19/2011, 8pm

LIZ and I are walking around talking about stuff. MELISSA is following with a little notepad.

liz

So... what do you want to know?

The notebook takes up the screen with a bunch of questions, matching the interrogation style of LA Noire. I pick the first topic- "Events of the trip"

MIKE

Okay, so... what happened on the trip?

LIZ

Well, I wanted to do a bunch of things, but he just wanted to lay around in the room. Then when he got back, he said he was moving in with his parents and he left.

"TRUTH", "DOUBT", and "LIE" appear on the screen. I pick "TRUTH", which is correct.

MIKE

But isn't it a little drastic to end your relationship over a bad trip?

LIZ

It wasn't just the trip, though. He'd been acting like that for months. I could never get him to do anything. He just sat around in the basement, doing... weird things on his computer.

MIKE

What sorts of weird things?

LIZ

I don't know... talking to people on this cultish self-realization site. He'd always hide it away when I tried to ask him about it so I didn't get many details.

MELISSA crosses off that category. She the selects the "Relationship" option.

MIKE

So, what's it been like being separated? Do you ever get lonely?

LIZ

Well... not really. I mean, the way Brendan was the last few months, it's not that different...

I pick "DOUBT". Correct again!

MIKE

Come on. Isn't it a little hard? I mean, you've been together for a third of your life!

LIZ

Okay, so it is a little sad not having anyone to share the bed with... besides the cats, that is. But I think I can get used to being single.

She gets a text.

MIKE

Who's that?

LIZ

Some guy. Don't worry, I'm not interested in him.

MIKE

Right.

MELISSA crosses off that one. Now... last one: "Happy?"

MIKE

Are you happier now that he's gone?

LIZ

Yeah... I realized that I wasn't happy with Brendan ever since we were married. I kind of wanted to end it for a while ago, but I never had the courage to.

"LIE", I say!

MIKE

I don't believe you really are. I think you're saying you are as a defense mechanism. I think you still love him.

LIZ

How do you know? You only saw bits and pieces you don't know how it really was.

MELISSA scrambles for some evidence, can't find any. I improvise.

MIKE

You can't just cast aside a relationship like that after eight and a half years without feeling a little bad about it!

Incorrect... cue the wonky piano.

LIZ

Maybe you'll understand when you're in a similar situation. I mean, I'd still like to be friends with Brendan, but I don't want to be in a relationship with him any more.

Cross it off.

MIKE

Well, thanks for leveling with me. I'm feeling a little better now. I mean, I'm still not 100% OK with it, but it's getting better.

LIZ

That's good. You know, I just don't want this to sour the relationship that you and I have.

MIKE

It won't. I was your brother before I was your best man.

We hug.

MIKE

I gotta go to the bathroom. Excuse me.

I head over to a bathroom hut. MELISSA follows.

MIKE

Damn it, I never get 'em all right...

MELISSA

You did have an intuition point, you know...

MIKE

Gee, thanks for telling me now-

MELISSA

YOU BET!!!

scene 14- int. mike's bedroom, 5/20/2011, 11AM

I'm sleeping in MELISSA's arms... or is she sleeping in mine? I get a call from LIZ. She sounds distressed.

MIKE

Hello...

LIZ

Mike... I got a call from Brendan. And I'm really worried he's going to do something.

MIKE

You mean... hurt himself-

LIZ

I don't know. I tried talking to him, and he was being really quiet and unresponsive, then I tried to talk to him about therapy and he just said "I'm fine" and hung up.

MIKE

Shit. I'll meet you at his place.

I hang up and burst up out of bed, waking MELISSA.

scene 15- int. mike's car, 5/20/2011, 11:10aM

I'm speeding along. The dramatic chase music from LA NOIRE is playing as I pass by people, flustered. I'm trying to call BRENDAN. MEL has shotgun.

MIKE

Come on... pick up...

To voicemail. I chuck my phone into the back seat. MEL takes my hand.

MELISSA

It's alright. I'm sure this is being blown out of context.

MIKE

I really hope so. But if it isn't-

I make a crazy turn right, sending MEL crashing into me.

MELISSA

Well, even if it is, no sense getting yourself killed too.

MIKE

You're the one not wearing a seatbelt. Oh, look, we're here.

I break the car. MEL goes flying out the window. But she breaks her fall in spectacular fashion! I run out.

scene 16- ext. brendan's parents house, 5/20/2011, 11:15AM

I run to the door and I start hammering on the door. No answer. I look like I'm about to jump through a window. LIZ pulls up as I'm moving to pick up a garden gnome and chuck it through.

LIZ

What are you doing?

MIKE

Nobody's answering, so I'm busting in-

LIZ

Relax, I just talked to him. He's out getting a new phone with his parents.

MIKE

Oh...

I put the gnome down, not at all in it's proper place.

LIZ

Come on, let's go get some lunch.

MIKE

Wait, though! If we wait here we can talk everything out! Maybe if I'm here we'll be able to-

LIZ

Mike... let's just go get some lunch.

I give in. She gets in her car and I follow in mine.

MIKE (V.O.)

Things don't always end like they do in the movies. The mystery doesn't always get solved, and the couple doesn't always live happily ever after. Yeah, I already knew that, and you probably did too. But... uh...

scene 17- int. mike's living room, 5/20/2011, 9pm

I'm there playing LA NOIRE again.

MIKE (V.O.)

Well, maybe love is just some sort of fantasy. Maybe it only exists in the imagination. And maybe that illusion is as flimsy and fickle as a termite-ridden tree in a twister. Ugh... look, my point is that even if love is some sort of artificial construct, and even if the proof is looking me right in the face, I'm not going to give up. I'll continue my investigation... into the case of the summertime lovin'.

MELISSA comes in. I turn off the game, and the noir-effect. We snuggle and kiss each others' faces on the couch.

MIKE

Oh, what the hell. Hit it!

MELISSA summons the boombox and it plays the song. We boogey!

outro sequence!!!

Only I can work in references to "Regular Show" and "LA Noire" into a story about my sister's divorce. But can I work them in WELL? That's up to you.